

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A head assembly for a swage press including a housing having a peripheral side wall that extends ~~continuously and completely~~ about a circumference of the housing, a front wall integrally formed with said peripheral side wall with an opening in said front wall providing access to a press zone surrounded by said peripheral side wall, said housing having an open rear face[[:]] and a rear wall secured by fastening means to said peripheral side wall to at least partially close said rear face of the housing, and a hydraulically operated press mechanism located within said housing surrounding said press zone, said press mechanism including a plurality of shoe elements configured to surround said press zone and an annular piston member moved axially by pressurized hydraulic fluid entering a hydraulic chamber defined by said piston member, said rear wall and said peripheral side wall, said annular piston member moving said shoe elements radially into said press zone when said annular piston member moves axially towards said front wall of the housing.

2. (Previously Presented) A head assembly for a swage press including:

i) a housing having a peripheral side wall that extends continuously and completely about a circumference of the housing, a front wall integrally formed with said peripheral side wall with an opening providing access to a press zone surrounded by said peripheral side wall, said housing having an open rear face;

ii) a plurality of shoe elements having press surfaces facing radially toward said press zone with said shoe elements being arranged circumferentially about said press zone and being restrained by said front wall to move in a radial direction toward and away from said press zone;

iii) an operating piston means cooperable simultaneously with each of said shoe elements whereby movement of said operating piston means toward said front wall causes movement of said shoe elements in said radial direction inwardly toward said press zone; and

iv) a rear wall secured by fastening means to said peripheral side wall to at least partially close said rear face of the housing, said rear wall cooperating with said operating piston means to

define at least one chamber for receiving high pressure hydraulic fluid to effect movement of said operating piston means toward said front wall.

3. (Original) A head assembly according to claim 2 wherein the operating piston means includes a truncated conical surface facing inwardly and cooperating with outwardly facing inclined surfaces on each of said shoe elements to effect radial movement of said shoe elements upon axial movement of the operating piston means towards said front wall.

4. (Previously Presented) A head assembly according to claim 2 wherein one said chamber is provided for receiving high pressure hydraulic fluid, said chamber being annularly formed with opposed annular faces of the chamber being formed respectively by a surface in said operating piston means and an inwardly facing surface of said rear wall.

5. (Currently Amended) A head assembly according to claim 2 for a swage press including:

i) a housing having a peripheral side wall and a front wall integrally formed with said peripheral side wall with an opening providing access to a press zone surrounded by said peripheral side wall, said housing having an open rear face;

ii) a plurality of shoe elements having press surfaces facing radially toward said press zone with said shoe elements being arranged circumferentially about said press zone and being restrained by said front wall to move in a radial direction toward and away from said press zone;

iii) an operating piston means cooperable simultaneously with each of said shoe elements whereby movement of said operating piston means toward said front wall causes movement of said shoe elements in said radial direction inwardly toward said press zone; and

iv) a rear wall secured by fastening means to said peripheral side wall to at least partially close said rear face of the housing, said rear wall cooperating with said operating piston means to define at least one chamber for receiving high pressure hydraulic fluid to effect movement of said operating piston means toward said front wall, wherein the rear wall has an outwardly facing cylindrical surface engaged, when assembled, with an inwardly facing cylindrical surface on the housing peripheral side wall at or adjacent the open rear face, said outwardly facing cylindrical surface having at least one groove formed therein and cooperating with at least one groove

formed in the inwardly facing cylindrical surface to provide at least one passage extending at least partially circumferentially between the rear wall and the peripheral side wall, and said fastening means being formed by at least one wire positioned in the or each said passage.

6. (Previously Presented) A head assembly according to claim 5 wherein two said passages are provided each extending substantially completely around the circumference of the outwardly facing cylindrical surface of the rear wall, a respective said wire being inserted into each of said passages in opposite directions.

7. (Previously Presented) A head assembly according to claim 5 wherein an extension of the or each said passage extends tangentially therefrom outwardly through the peripheral side wall to be accessed externally of said side wall.